

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for managing knowledge, comprising:
 capturing existing knowledge with user-defined ~~templates~~ forms in a
 predetermined format of selected information categories grouped in a plurality of
 workflows;
 abstracting the captured knowledge using meta data;
 organizing the abstracted captured knowledge into an indexed database of
 information including links between related information, the indexed database structured
 according to the abstracted captured knowledge;
 acquiring new knowledge with the user-defined ~~templates~~ forms;
 capturing the new knowledge in the predetermined format; and
 updating the database to include the new information and links between the new
 information and related information.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said capturing further
 comprises:
 identifying the most critical element of the new knowledge.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: providing
 timely and relevant information to a selected user based on predefined and user-
 modifiable preferences.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein each of said workflow
 includes a sequence of steps, wherein each step is linked to at least one other step in
 chronological or logical manner.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said existing knowledge and said new knowledge are presented in a hierarchical tree.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said existing knowledge and said new knowledge include a plurality of human-based processes.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of human-based processes include business and management processes.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of human-based processes include engineering processes.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
remotely accessing said indexed database via a network of computers.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
applying the knowledge to a task; and
tracking progress on said task.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
annotating the new knowledge.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
setting up a plurality of criteria associated with the new knowledge, said plurality of criteria modifying said links between the new information and related information based in said plurality of criteria.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said indexed database includes fields defined by the captured knowledge and the new knowledge.

15. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for managing knowledge, the method including:

- capturing existing knowledge with user-defined ~~templates~~ forms in a predetermined format of selected information categories defined by said existing knowledge;

- abstracting the captured knowledge using meta data;

- organizing the abstracted captured knowledge into an indexed database of information including links between related information, the indexed database structured according to the abstracted captured knowledge;

- acquiring new knowledge with the user-defined ~~templates~~ forms;

- capturing the new knowledge in the predetermined format; and

- updating the database to include the new information and links between the new information and related information.

16-20. (canceled).